

Dalit Adivasi Budget Analysis 2022-23

National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights - Dalit Arthik Adhikar Andolan



1. Introduction

This financial year the allocation for Scheduled Caste stands at Rs. 1,42,342.36Cr and Rs 89,265.12 Cr for the Scheduled Tribes. 329 schemes for SC and 336 schemes for ST have been allocated for the welfare of Scheduled Castes (AWSC) & Allocation for Welfare of Scheduled Tribes (AWST) respectively.

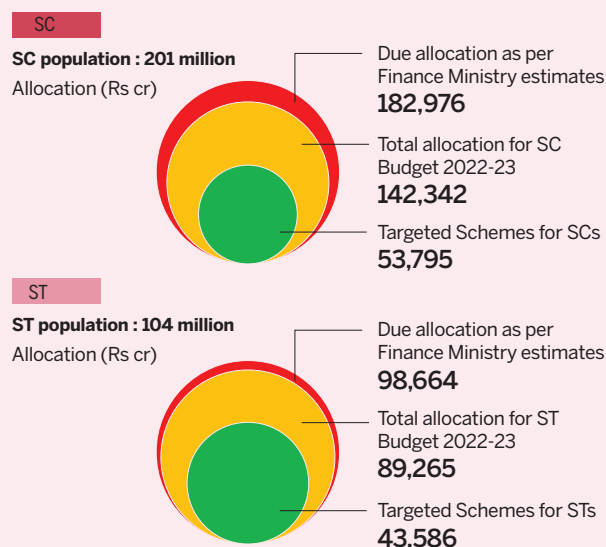
While the allocation seems quite large scale, the proportion of targeted schemes is 37.79 % with Rs.53794.9 Cr allocated for targeted schemes under SC budget and with 43.8% with Rs 39,113 Cr for STs. The rest of the Schemes under Dalit and Adivasi budget are de-facto general schemes, with a mask of SC or ST budget schemes. They do not qualify as SC, ST schemes that benefit the communities. Considering the general nature of the schemes, these will not address the development gap between the SC/ST and rest of the population as mandated by the guidelines.

The government has been voicing the need for development of the Dalit and Adivasi community; however, the same is not reflected in the budget for the financial year 2022-23.



Figure 1: Budget For Scheduled Castes & For Scheduled Tribes -2022-23 (in Rs. Cr.)

	SC	ST
(a) Total Expenditure Budget Estimate 2022-23 (Note 1)	4,414,361	4,414,361
(b) Total Eligible Central Sector Schemes and Centrally Sponsored Schemes (Note 2)	1,230,836	1,226,282
(c) Due Allocation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Schemes as per the New Guidelines of NITI Aayog (Note 1)	182,976	98,664
(d) Allocation for SC Schemes (as per Statement 10A) and ST Schemes (as per Statement 10B)	142,342	89,265
(e) % of Allocation (e) = (d)% of (b)	11.6%	7.3%
(f) Targeted Schemes	53,795	43,586
(g) % of Targeted Allocation (g)=(f)% of (b)	4.4%	3.6%
(i) Total Gap in allocation (Due Allocation- Targeted Schemes) (i) =(c) - (f)	129,181	55,077



Source: Gov of India -Budget Expenditure Profile 2022-23 Ministry of Finance.

*Note-1: Total Expenditure through budget and resources of public enterprises, as per statement-1.Expenditure Profile, FY 2022-23

* Note-2: Current system of Budgeting for SC & ST is DAPSC & DAPST as per the new guidelines issued on Dated 26th Dec.2017 No.F.2 (21)-B(P&A)/2016 Govt. of India by Ministry of Finance. As per the Guidelines each obligatory Ministry/Department is given a set proportion of the CS+CSS to be earmarked as the Budget for SC and ST schemes.

Note-2: In the new guidelines SCSPP and TSP are renamed as DAPSC (Development Action Plan for Scheduled Castes) & DAPST (Development Action Plan for Scheduled Tribes)

Note 1: New System of Budgeting for SC & ST is DAPSC & DAPST as per the new guidelines issued on Dated 26th Dec.2017 No.F.2 (21)-B(P&A)/2016 Govt. of India Ministry of Finance Department of Economic Affairs Budget Division page no-2. As per the Guidelines each obligatory Ministry/Department is given a set proportion of the CS+CSS to be earmarked as the Budget for SC and ST schemes.



Highlights of Budget Analysis 2022-23

1) As per the guidelines by the NITI ayog on the AWSC and AWST, it is mandatory to allocate proportionate to the population, however this year too the allocation has not been made proportionate and there exists a gap of Rs. 40,634 CRs and Rs. 9399 Crs for SC and ST Budget

2) Manual Scavenging is a practice that has been outlawed in India through the Elimination of Manual Scavenging Act but still practiced in many states. However very disappointing to see that they have only allocated Rs. 70 Crs for the Self Employment of Manual Scavengers and Rs. 25 Crs for National Safai Karamachari Finance and Development Corporation

3) Education

The commitment to allocate INR 7000 Crs to Post Matric Scholarship has not been fulfilled this year too. This year there is an allocation of

only Rs. 5660 Cr for SCs and Rs. 3416 Cr for STs.

4) Gender

Data shows that there is a total no of atrocities on Dalit women is about 7000 Crimes, with about 10 Dalit women raped on an average daily, however the budget allocated this year is only Rs 600 Crs for the effective implementation of the SC ST PoA act, out of which only about Rs.180 Crs crores to address violence and crimes against Dalit women. The trans Dalit community do not find a mention in the budget and this is totally invisibilised without having any allocation.

5) This year there is an allocation of about Rs. 20472 Crs for the agriculture department for SCs and Rs. 10,606 Crs for STs, though this is a high allocation, it is common knowledge that lot of Dalits and Adivasis are landless farmers so it is yet to be seen how this is implemented.

The allocations for nodal ministry i.e. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment have been increased to Rs 9,508 Cr as compared to last year Rs 7,751 Cr. Apart from this, the other critical Ministries which have witnessed a marginal increase of allocation in SC development are Rural development, Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) and Drinking water & sanitation.

Similarly, from the ST perspective, the critical ministries are MSME and Drinking water & sanitation with substantial increased. Moreover, there is only a marginal increase in allocations for the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA). In a scenario where the overall increase in allocations are as high as 13% and 12% for SC & ST respectively, the nodal ministries of MSJE & MoTA are subjected to major budget cuts despite the existing NITI AAYOG guidelines for Earmarking of Funds for implementation of SCSP/TSP.

The Union Budget 2022 -23 was presented in the Parliament on February 1, 2022 by the Finance Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman which is the fourth budget of the Modi 2.0 government. This is one of the most critical budgets against the milieu of gradual recovery taking place in the Indian economy hit by the unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic. The country is facing several challenges viz., high levels of unemployment; health crisis; declining growth rate, increasing poverty and injustice. This is also an election year wherein 5 states (Punjab, Goa, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Manipur) are going to polls from Feb 10 to March 7 which in turn may put a pressure on the finance minister to be soft on certain aspects of taxation as well as spending. The finance minister has promised to increase public spending, with an objective of boosting demand and creating jobs¹.

As per the study done by PRICE (Peoples Research

1 <https://www.timesnownews.com/business-economy/meet-fm-nirmala-sitharaman-a-team-behind-union-budget-2022-article-89091933>

on Indian Consumer Economy) in 2021² there is an unprecedented decrease in the annual income of the poorest 20% of Indian households, which plunged 53% in the pandemic year 2020-21 from their levels in 2015-16. In the same five-year period, the richest 20% saw their annual household income grow 39% reflecting the sharp contrast Covid's economic impact has had on the bottom of the pyramid and the top. This is very alarming and requires a central government intervention through innovative budgeting to put money in the hands of the poor especially the Dalits and Adivasis through Dalit and Adivasi budgeting and the policy that has for decades been a sure bet for targeting the most vulnerable of the citizens.

The Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), by May 2021 also has predicted a similar scenario. The unemployment rate they have predicted will be around 12% which means that 1 crore people (out of a total workforce of 47,168,89,90) are going to be out of their jobs due to the second wave of corona pandemic. It states that the unemployment rate stands at 12.4% in urban areas and 15.1% in rural areas. Covid 19 pandemic has pushed millions of people into poverty and has led to worsening inequality. As per the recent Oxfam report "Inequality Kills" in 2020, India's top 10% held close to 45% of the country's total national wealth. This income inequality coupled with social inequalities has made the pandemic lethal and reduced the ability of people to access education, health and other dimensions of wellbeing especially for the marginalised. As per the NCRB data daily wage workers topped the categories of people who died of suicide in 2020, followed by self-employed and unemployed individuals.³ At this time of growing inequality it is extremely necessary to have increased allocation towards critical social sectors of health, education and social security. Against this backdrop, the Dalit Adivasi Budget Analysis entails a detailed examination and assessment of budget from the perspective of the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs). This analysis attempts to unpack the numbers, and make it transparent by looking at three aspects – allocation, proportion of targeted schemes which directly benefits SCs and STs and budget credibility which measures the gap between the approved budget and the utilized budget.

There has been a marginal increase in allocation for Post Matric Scholarship with an allocation of Rs

5,660 Crs for this year. However, in this budget, some of the very critical schemes have been starved of necessary funds for SC & ST development. For example, Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour, pre matric scholarship] are some of the direct benefitting schemes with very less allocation.

Impact of Covid on Migrant labour

According to the Census of India 2011, there are over 45.58 crore migrant workers. However, on 14 September 2020, Union Minister of Labour and Employment Santosh Kumar Gangwar stated in Parliament that around 1 crore migrants returned back to their source state as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and consequent lockdown⁴. Data also shows that about 90% of the migrants lost their incomes within the first three weeks of the COVID lockdown⁵. According to the ILO, a decline of 22.6% in the wages of the migrant workers have been estimated post-lockdown⁶. In response, on May 17, 2020, the Indian Government announced distribution of food grains to migrant workers for two months, and enrolment of the returning migrants under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) to provide jobs up until the monsoon season. The FM has provided an additional allocation of 40,000 crore towards MGNREGA.

The focus has been on the creation of job opportunities in urban, semi-urban and rural areas as well as for tribal people, by engaging them in environment-related manual labour under the Compensatory Afforestation Management & Planning Authority (CAMPA). Around 6,000 crore will be utilised under this scheme. Similarly, measures announced relate to the concessional rental housing support scheme under Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (PMAY) for migrant workers near their workplace, and a portable ration card scheme "one nation one ration card", which is a technology-driven system that will allow migrant workers to use their ration cards across India. The third measure includes support to the self-employed and street vendors by way of easing out credit access for 50 lakh street vendors. However, a survey conducted of 11,000 migrant workers stranded across different locations in India during lockdown reveals that 96% of them didn't receive rations from the government, 70% didn't receive any cooked meal and as many as 89%

2 https://www.ice360.in/app/uploads/2021/03/ICE-360-Proposal_v6.pdf

3 https://d1ns4ht6ytuzzo.cloudfront.net/oxfamdata/oxfamdatapublic/2022-01/India%20Supplement%202022%20lo-res%20single.pdf?qpboOXJULM6jrm1QUPjW_e2zSPYHdVhx

4 <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/labour-minister-gangwar-clarifies-his-response-on-migrant-labourers-in-parliament/articleshow/78142699.cms>

5 <https://jansahas.org/covid-19>

Figure 2a: Scheduled Castes Budget: Due, Allocated, Targeted in FY 2022-23

	2022-23 (BE)
Total CS+CSS (Rs. Cr.)	1,230,836
Due Allocations (Rs. Cr.) (*)	182,976
% Due Share (1.) As per NITI Aayog guideline	14.9%
Allocation earmarked for SCs (Rs.Cr.)	142,342
% Allocation to SCs to Total CS+CSS	11.6%
Total Targeted Schemes - SCs (Rs.Cr.)	53,795
% Targeted Scheme to SCs to Total CS+CSS	4.4%

*2022-23: The Due amount has been calculated by the new guideline issued by Finance Ministry No-F.2(21) B(P&A)/2016.Govt of India, Ministry of Finance, Dept of Economic Affairs, Budget division, Dated 26 December 2017. This Guideline gives Ministry wise allocation for SCs and has named it as DAPSC(Development Action Plan For Schedule Caste) vide. As per the Guidelines each obligatory Ministry/Department is given a set proportion of the CS+CSS to be earmarked as the Budget for SC and ST schemes.

1. As per the NITI Aayog guideline on DAPSC & DAPST the total Due allocation comes 15.49% instead of 16.6% which is prescribed by erstwhile SCP & TSP Policy"

Source: Union Budget Expenditure Profile FY2022-23

Figure 2b: Scheduled Tribes Budget: Due, Allocated, Targeted in FY 2022-23

	2022-23 (BE)
Total CS+CSS (Rs. Cr.)	1,226,282
Due Allocations (Rs. Cr.) (*)	98,664
% Due Share (1.) As per NITI Aayog guideline	8.2%
Allocation earmarked for STs (Rs.Cr.)	89,265
% Allocation to STs to Total CS+CSS	7.3%
Total Targeted Schemes - STs (Rs.Cr.)	43,586
% Targeted Scheme to STs to Total CS+CSS	3.6%

Figure 2c: Scheduled Castes Budget : Due, Allocated, Targeted-5 years Trends

Financial Year	Total CS+CSS (Rs.Cr.)	Due Allocations (Rs.Cr.) (*)	% Due Share (1.) As per NITI Aayog guideline	Allocation earmarked for SCs (Rs.Cr.)	% Allocation to SCs to Total CS+CSS	Total Targeted Schemes - SCs (Rs.Cr.)	% Targeted Scheme to SCs to Total CS+CSS
2018-19 (BE)	788,395	117,282	14.9%	56,619	7.2%	28,698	3.6%
2019-20 (BE)	951,334	141,309	14.9%	81,341	8.6%	34,833	3.7%
2020-21 (BE)	898,430	139,172	15.5%	83,257	9.3%	16,174	1.8%
2021-22 (BE)	1,081,427	161,260	14.9%	126,259	11.7%	48,397	4.5%
2022-23 (BE)	1,230,836	182,976	14.9%	142,342	11.6%	53,795	4.4%
Total	4,950,422	741,999	15.0%	489,818	9.9%	181,897	3.7%

**2022-23: The Due amount has been calculated by the new guideline issued by Finance Ministry No-F.2(21) B(P&A)/2016.Govt of India, Ministry of Finance, Dept of Economic Affairs, Budget division, Dated 26 December 2017. This Guideline gives Ministry wise allocation for SCs and has named it as DAPSC(Development Action Plan For Schedule Caste) vide. As per the Guidelines each obligatory Ministry/Department is given a set proportion of the CS+CSS to be earmarked as the Budget for SC and ST schemes.

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Source: Union Budget Expenditure Profile FY2018-19 to FY2022-23

Figure 2d: Scheduled Tribes Budget: Due, Allocated, Targeted - 5 years Trend

Financial Year	Total CS+CSS (Rs.Cr.)	Due Allocations (Rs.Cr.) (*)	% Due Share as per NITI Aayog guideline (1)	Allocation earmarked for STs (Rs.Cr.)	% Allocation to STs to Total CS+CSS	Total Targeted Schemes - STs (Rs.Cr.)	% Targeted Scheme to SCs to Total CS+CSS
2018-19 (BE)	784,881	64,486	8.2%	39,135	4.9%	19,623	2.5%
2019-20 (BE)	947,228	76,592	8.2%	52,885	5.5%	21,628	2.3%
2020-21 (BE)	895,043	77,034	8.1%	53,653	5.9%	19,428	2.2%
2021-22 (BE)	1,077,460	88,077	8.2%	79,942	7.4%	27,830	2.6%
2022-23 (BE)	1,226,282	98,664	8.2%	89,265	7.3%	43,586	3.6%
Total	4,930,893	404,852	8.2%	314,880	7.3%	132,095	2.7%

**2022-23: The Due amount has been calculated by the new guideline issued by Finance Ministry No-F.2(21) B(P&A)/2016.Govt of India, Ministry of Finance, Dept of Economic Affairs, Budget division, Dated 26 December 2017. This Guideline gives Ministry wise allocation for SCs and has named it as DAPSC(Development Action Plan For Schedule Caste) vide. As per the Guidelines each obligatory Ministry/Department is given a set proportion of the CS+CSS to be earmarked as the Budget for SC and ST schemes.

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Source: Union Budget Expenditure Profile FY2018-19 to FY2022-23

didn't receive any payment from their employers during the lockdown⁷.

According to the NCRB⁸, death by suicide owing to the impact of the pandemic and the lockdown was significant and a disaggregation of worker/non-worker revealed that most deaths in 2020 were that of daily wage workers, followed by self-employed and unemployed individuals. The Union Budget 2021-22 had mentioned registration of informal labour, including migrant labour, and their inclusion in a database as a means to help formulate policies for health, housing, upskilling, insurance, credit and food schemes⁹. However, the e-Shram portal, which aims to register all such migrant and gig workers had only been able to register 24 percent of such workers in three months, due to barriers of Aadhar and low awareness of benefits¹⁰.

Allocations for employment generation for SCs in the Union Budget 2022-23 has drastically reduced to Rs. 22.97 Cr from Rs. 170.96 Cr in the previous year. The same is true also for the STs where we witness a drop to Rs. 11.30 Cr this year from Rs. 89.50 Cr last year. Employment generation schemes include National career services, Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojna, Coaching and Guidance for SC ST and Other Backward Classes. Similarly, Labour welfare schemes for the SCs register a drop to Rs. 19.88 Cr under AWSC from Rs. 24.90 Cr in the previous year and, for STs, the same has been Rs. 10.66 Cr under AWST from Rs. 12.90 Cr in the previous year. It is a matter of concern that despite the migrant crisis in 2020 that also spilled onto 2021, the Union Budget does not allocate funds for the migrants from the SC ST community.

Youth and Unemployment

Youth plays a major role in the growth of the economy of a country and are rightly viewed as the demographic dividend; however, youth unemployment is at an all-time record high in the country. As on 30th January 2022, India's unemployment rate stood firm at 6.05%.¹¹

Even as the world is recovering from the impact of the pandemic, the youth have been dealt a double blow - of entering into the adult world where uncertainties

predominate - not only for safety (health) but also for dignified survival (jobs). Even pre-pandemic, over the last decade, a serious employment crisis had emerged for Indian youth in the age group of 18 to 40 years. It is worth noting that the socio-economic location of a person in contemporary Indian context is still shaped and often rigidly imposed by institutions of gender, caste, and religion. These three factors predominantly determine access to education, better livelihood, social mobility, and create a hierarchical stratification within the society.

Dalit, Adivasi and Muslim youth comprise 35%, 23.8% and 33.1% of population respectively in their communities (in the 15 to 34 age group). Many of them live in extreme poverty, with limited marketable qualifications or skills. They form bulk of the unorganized working sector in India, who constitute 92% of the workforce of our country. These youth highlight their everyday experiences of poverty, discrimination, exclusion in educational institutions, government programmes, businesses and industry. Only 5% Dalit and 3% Adivasi were amongst graduates.¹²

In 2018-19, unemployed youth with education above graduation consisted of 22.4% Dalit and Adivasi youth. Also, youth with education above graduation who had salaried jobs comprised of merely 15.66% SC and ST compared to 84.34% others. At a glance, if one observes the composition of salaried workforce in India (where reservation is mandated), a glaring inequality with regard to access to salaried jobs for the youth from Dalit and Adivasi households could be easily observed.¹³ The budget this year has failed to provision adequately for the unemployed and youth of this country.

Shockingly, out of the total allocation of Rs 2682.42 Cr under the Ministry of Labour and Employment for SCs, Rs. 1,408.51 Cr has been allocated for Employees Pension Scheme, which is a general scheme, providing no direct benefits to the community. Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana gets Rs 1062.4 Cr which again is not a scheme targeted for Dalits. Similarly, out of the total allocation of Rs 1389.69 Cr under the Ministry of Labour and Employment for STs, Rs. 729.75 Cr and 550.40 Cr have been allocated for

7 https://www.thehindu.com/news/resources/article31442220.ece/binary/Lockdown-and-Distress_Report-by-Stranded-Workers-Action-Network.pdf

8 National Crime Records Bureau, 2020 <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/daily-wagers-top-people-in-india-who-committed-suicide-in-2020-ncrb/article-show/87354684.cms>

9 Aryan, A., (2021), "ESIC, other social security safety nets to cover gig economy workers", The Indian Express, accessed January 3, 2022, <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/budget-2021-esic-other-social-security-safety-nets-to-cover-gig-economy-workers-7170725/>

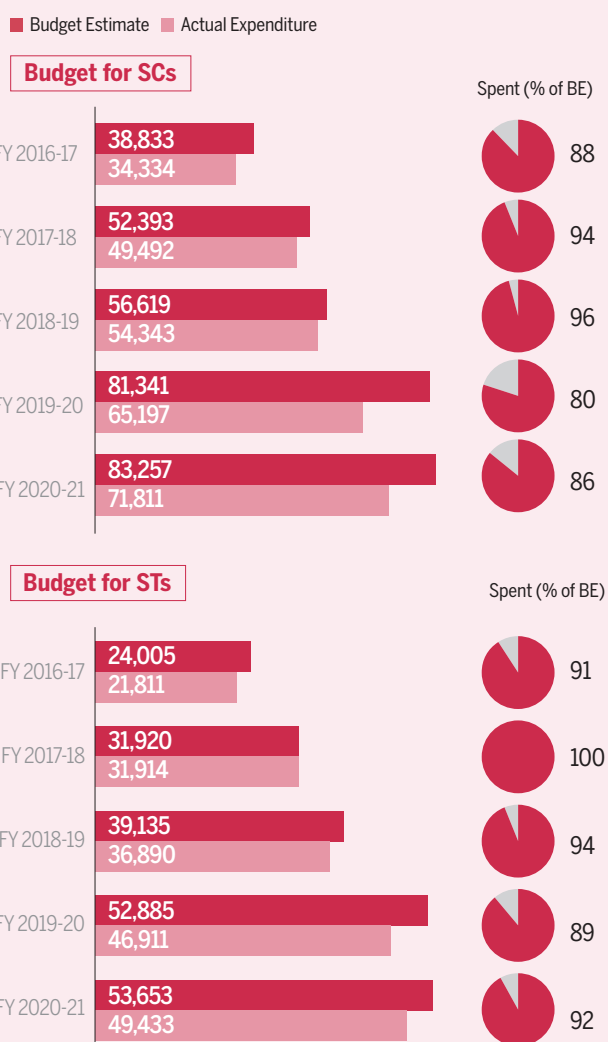
10 Paliath, S., (2021), "E-Shram Registration Should Ensure Social Security Entitlements For Workers, Say Experts", IndiaSpend, accessed January 4, 2022, <https://www.indiaspend.com/governance/e-shram-registration-should-ensure-social-security-entitlements-for-workers-say-experts-789930>

11 <https://unemploymentinindia.cmie.com/>

12 <https://csei.org.in/4006-2/>

13 <https://indianresearcher.in/destroyed-demographic-dividend-the-crisis-of-youth-unemployment-in-india/>

Figure 3: Utilisation of funds for Scheduled Caste & Scheduled Tribe Schemes in Union Budget FY16 to FY20 (Rs.Cr)



Source: Gov of India - Budget Expenditure Profile of FY 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21 & 2021-22, 2022-23 Ministry of Finance

Employees Pension Scheme, 1995 and Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana, respectively. It is a grave violation of SCP/TSP guidelines. In total, Rs. 3,751.06 Cr from Dalit and Adivasi budgets under the Ministry were diverted towards general schemes.

2. Analysis of Utilization – Budget Credibility

The term Budget Credibility is defined as deviation between Approved budget and Fund Utilization at the year end, and if the deviation is more than 10%

then it would be considered to be the issue of Budget Credibility. This utilized figure is however provided by Supreme Audit body of the country and it is reflected in budget documents published by Ministry of Finance, Govt of India. This audited figure is considered to be the authentic figures and seemed to be spent towards the upliftment of the communities across the country. There has been a serious budget credibility issue that has been observed in both Union and across all states as far as the SC & ST Budget is concerned. For instance, in FY 2019-20 the total fund utilization under SC Budget is 80% followed by 89% under ST Budget as far as the total budget is concerned. In the same financial year of FY 2019-20, the total allocation under SC Budget is Rs 81,341 Cr (8.6% of total CS+CSS) and of which the targeted allocation is only Rs 34,833 Cr that accounts 3.7% of (CS+CSS) and only 3.7 is considered as the real utilization for the communities. Similarly, under ST budget the total allocation under ST Budget in the same financial year of FY 2019-20 is Rs 52,885 Cr (accounts 5.5% of CS+CSS) and the targeted allocation is Rs 21,628 Cr that accounts to 2.3% of the total CS+CSS, which seems to be negligible in nature.

Livelihood

In March 2020, an all-embracing lockdown was announced eventuating millions of Dalit and Adivasi migrant workers going back to their native places homeless and unemployed. Dalits and Adivasis made up most of the informal and daily wage labourers forced to leave cities due to loss of livelihoods, exacerbating existing inequalities along caste lines. From December 2019 to April 2020, the proportion of employed members of the dominant castes decreased by 7 percent, compared to a drop of 20 percent among members of Scheduled Castes (Dalits) and 15 percent among members of Scheduled Tribes (Adivasis). Women sanitation workers faced major issues as they did not even draw a regular salary. Their contractual jobs also suffered due to the economic crisis in the post-lockdown period. The middle-class women did not employee domestic workers and withheld their payments.¹⁵ Dalit and Adivasi women are mostly engaged in domestic and construction work where they are paid less than their male counterparts. Adivasi women depend on minor forest products, which include timber, forest medicine, herbs, honey, gooseberry,

14 S. Raman and S. Tiwari, "India's Strict Lockdown Pushed Its Dalits, Muslims and Adivasis Deeper into Debt," Scroll, September 12, 2020, <https://scroll.in/article/972840/indias-strict-lockdown-pushed-its-dalits-muslims-and-adviasis-deeper-into-debt>.

tree gum, and fruits that give them livelihood. During the summer season, this is a major source of income for the tribal women. But, due to the lockdown, the weekly markets got closed and the Adivasi women were left with no earnings. A large chunk of dalit and adivasi daily wagers are farmland labourers. They get exploited in the hands of dominant caste landlords for barely sustainable wage. More than 7,000 Dalits took their lives over eight years, leaving behind women in thrall of moneylenders and ignored by the government. Second wave took away a number of earning members from marginalised backgrounds, further disabling them financially. Due to the rigid societal functioning along caste lines, Dalits and Adivasis struggled to find work with pre-existing prejudice against them.

In the Union Budget 2022-23, Rs. 6,791.15 Cr from SC budget and Rs. 4,261.72 Cr have been allocated to livelihood and skill development programmes. The most allocation of Rs. 3334.12 Cr for Dalits and Rs 2334.13 Cr for Adivasis was made under National Rural Livelihood Mission. Infact, allocation for Guarantee Emergency Credit line (GECL) facility to eligible MSME borrowers is Rs. 1312 Cr for Adivasis and Rs. 2520 Cr for Dalits.

Sanitation and Frontline workers

Manual scavenging is the practice of physically removing human excreta by hand from sewers or septic tanks. The work is mostly undertaken by members of the Dalit caste, which is at the bottom of India's archaic caste system.

In 1955, the Protection of Civil Rights Act called for the abolition of scavenging or sweeping on grounds of untouchability. This was revised in 1977 for a stricter implementation. In 2013, Parliament passed the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers Act, 2013, with a greater emphasis on rehabilitation. However, all legislations collapse when confronted with the reality on ground. According to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, 941 Dalits have lost their lives till August 2021, while cleaning sewers.¹⁵ According to the report submitted by MSJE, 63,246 manual scavengers have been identified across the country (by March 2020).¹⁷

The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment introduced the Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS) in 2007 to aid the rehabilitation of 'former' manual scavengers transitioning to other occupations. In FY 2021-22, there was "ZERO" allocation of funds for the rehabilitation of manual scavengers citing under-utilization of funds in the previous financial year. This comes as a rude shock as sanitation workers were at the forefront and while it was claimed that they are at par with other frontline workers, given their vulnerability to the infection and their crucial role in maintaining sanitized environment, neglecting to provision for this group totally belies that claim.

Furthermore, there is no allocation for the "post matric scholarship of those children whose parents are engaged in unclean occupations and prone to health hazards" scheme in the latest 2022-23 Budget. Women engaged in manual scavenging, despite possessing all the required documents, are not enlisted as people involved in manual scavenging and hence get excluded from The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act (PEMSR Act) and the Self-employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS). This is compounded by the fact that women who are engaged in manual scavenging are unaware of their legal rights.¹⁸ In fact, in FY 2021-22, an amount of Rs. 50 Cr was allocated to National Safai Karamchari Finance and Development Corporation for capital expenditure, which has been reduced to half (Rs 25 Cr) this year. In this budget, the Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers gets Rs.70 cr as compared to 100 Cr last year.

Sanitation work in India is intergenerational and is disproportionately performed by members of scheduled castes, or other vulnerable social groups. Sanitation workers are tasked with disinfecting public spaces as COVID-19 crisis continues to impact us. Sanitation employees are people who work in any part of the sanitation chain: cleaning toilets, emptying pits and septic tanks, cleaning sewers and manholes and operating pumping stations and remedy plants and so forth. The pandemic has similarly exacerbated their exclusion and vulnerabilities. More than half the deaths

15 Smita M. Patil (2021). "Gender Equity and Covid-19: Dalit Standpoints", Economic and Political Weekly <https://www.epw.in/engage/article/gender-equity-and-covid-19-dalit-standpoints>

16 "As told to Parliament (July 24, 2019): Survey reveals 54,130 manual scavengers in 18 states", Down To Earth <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/governance/as-told-to-parliament-july-24-2019-survey-reveals-54-130-manual-scavengers-in-18-states-65810>

17 "TENTH REPORT STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (2019-2020)", Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

18 Sharanya Menon (August 2021). "Advancing the rights of women manual scavengers", India Development Review <https://idronline.org/article/gender/advancing-the-rights-of-women-manual-scavengers/>

due to Covid among the staff of the three Municipal Corporation of Delhi — North, South and East — have been of safai karamcharis. Of the 94 deaths among corporation employees due to Covid, 49 are sanitation workers.¹⁹

India's graveyards and crematoriums are overwhelmed with deaths from COVID-19 during the second wave. Crematorium workers are Dalits who are miserably underpaid and exploited socio-economically, while the work load was four times than usual. They were not provided with any sort of protective gear.²⁰ The average life expectancy of sanitation workers is 40-45 years, significantly lower than the national average of 70 years.²¹ To add to that, sanitation infrastructure in most Indian cities is outdated and difficult to operate with machines, thereby requiring human intervention. Some policy amendments had been suggested by the govt. and earmarking a significant budget (Rs. 1.25 lakh crore) for mechanisation in 500 cities and gram panchayats. However, it was not included in the 2022 budget.

3. Education Justice

Impact of Covid 19 on Education of SC & STs: The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly disrupted the higher education sector, this was also reiterated by the Finance Minister in her budget speech. Education is one important avenue that is critical to reduce the economic gap between marginalised communities and dominant groups. During Covid 19 the educational institutions resorted to online teaching without realising the lack of internet facilities and availability of computers and smart phones amongst the poor SC/ST students creating an enormous digital divide where access to technology seems like a far-off reality for them. Government entitlements become even more important for students from marginalised communities to realise their right to education. COVID-19 has increased the existing disparity in access to education, and will do so further. It has exposed students from these communities to many more challenges like poor access to digital infrastructure, lack of financial resources and space, lack of livelihood opportunities

and social protection. The pandemic has pushed many students towards informal employment, increasing their vulnerability. The education sector has faced enormous challenges since the lockdown. In response, institutions have introduced remote learning and the use of online learning modules and television. For several students from underprivileged backgrounds, this is one more barrier in a system that was already fraught with discrepancies and discrimination, especially for those from poorer families. While the government did not seem to factor the issue of access, many students from the Dalit, Adivasi, PVTG and trans communities were left looking for ways to cope with the situation, sometimes failing to find solutions²². Proper and timely implementation of the schemes like PMS, increase access to online classes and immediate financial and livelihood support for SC/ST students is a must to remove the barriers during the covid crisis and its recovery.

Post-Matric Scholarship and Schemes for Higher Education

According to the AISHE²³ data (2019-20), the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) has increased during the last 5 years, from 24.5 in 2015-16 to 27.1 in 2019-20. The increase in GER is higher for females as compared to males. However, allocations do not necessarily match increased enrolment. While Post-Matric Scholarship for SCs finds an increase in the Union Budget 2022-23 to the tune of Rs.5660 Cr, an increase from Rs.3416 cr last year (in AWSC), the PMS for STs has decreased to Rs. 1965 Cr from Rs. 1993 Cr last year (in AWST).

Focusing on higher education spending for the SCs, Statement 10A of the Union Budget (also known as Allocation for Welfare of SCs or AWSC), we find two Ministries mentioned in the 10A (AWSC). Within the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, various schemes add up to reflect an outlay of Rs. 3843 Cr for higher education, which was Rs. 1963.45 Cr last year. SHREYAS, an umbrella higher education program, comprising of four schemes has a combined outlay of Rs. 364 Cr. It comprises of National Fellowship for

19 Abhinav Rajput (May 2021). "Delhi: Half of Covid dead under municipal corporations are safai karamcharis", The Indian Express <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/delhi/delhi-half-of-covid-dead-under-municipal-corporations-are-safai-karamcharis-7333365/>

20 Suprakash Majumdar (April 2021). "We Spoke to a Cremator at the Center of India's COVID Hell", Vice News <https://www.vice.com/en/article/y3dgyg/we-spoke-to-a-cremator-at-the-center-of-indias-covid-hell>

21 Anahita Bakshi, Keshav Kanoria and Nirat Bhatnagar (2021). "No progress for sanitation workers: What must change", Times of India <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/developing-contemporary-india/no-progress-for-sanitation-workers-what-must-change/>

22 NCHDR, DAAA (2021) 'Confronting the Pandemic: Response and Recovery for the Dalit and Adivasi Students' <http://www.ncdhr.org.in/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Confronting-the-Pandemic-Response-and-Recovery-for-Dalit-and-Adivasi-students-1.pdf>

23 All India Survey on Higher Education (2019-20) https://www.education.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/statistics-new/aishe_eng.pdf

Figure 4. Relevance of schemes for SCs and STs - Relevant, General and Obsolete in Union Budget 2022-23 (Rs.Cr)

% allocation	24%	47%	29%
Fund allocation	Total Relevant ₹ 50,814 Cr	Total General ₹ 97,314 Cr	Total Obsolete ₹ 60,622 Cr

NOTE : The top 50 Schemes account for 90% of the total Schemes under AWSC & AWST. Schemes highlighted under the color Green are Relevant and are targeted Schemes which ensure direct benefit, under the color yellow are General which benefit everybody and not necessarily SCs or STs, and under Red are obsolete which has no relevance for the SC/ST communities. Yellow and Red together form the Non-Targeted schemes.

 Relevant schemes
  Obsolete schemes
  General flow schemes

Name of the Schemes	Total	SC	ST
 MGNREGA-Programme Component	15,381	11,428	26,809
 Food Subsidy to Food Corporation of India under National Food Security Act.	12,111	6,275	18,386
 Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) / National Rural Drinking Water Mission-Jal Jeevan Mission/National Rural Drinking Water Programme - Normal Programme	13,200	6,000	19,200
 Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan)	11,166	5,876	17,042
 Road Works-Works under Roads Wing	0	4,545	4,545
 Samagra Shiksha-Support for Samagra Shiksha	7,535	4,131	11,666
 Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna (PMAY)- Rural-PMAY-Programme Component	5,000	3,500	8,500
 Food Subsidy for Decentralized Procurement of Foodgrains under NFSA	5,027	2,604	7,631
 National Rural Livelihood Mission-NRLM-Programme Component	3,334	2,334	5,668
 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)	0	2,000	2,000
 Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0 (Umbrella ICDS - Anganwadi Services, Poshan Abhiyan, Scheme for Adolescent Girls)	4,624	1,989	6,612
 Post- Matric Scholarship for SC & STs	5,660	1,965	7,625
 Flexible Pool for RCH & Health System Strengthening , National Health Programme and National Urban Health Mission-Gross Budgetary Support (GBS)	2,677	1,500	4,177
 Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS)	3,328	1,452	4,781
 Crop Insurance Scheme-Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana	2,667	1,381	4,048
 Special Central Assistance to SC Sub Scheme & Tribal Sub-Scheme (SCA to TSS)	0	1,354	1,354
 Grants under proviso to Article 275(1) of the Constitution	0	1,350	1,350
 Guarantee Emergency Credit Line (GECL) facility to eligible MSME borrowers	2,520	1,312	3,832
 Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN)	2,046	1,104	3,150
 Nutrient Based Subsidy-Payment for Indigenous P and K Fertilizers	2,092	1,084	3,175
 Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna	1,737	976	2,714
 Urea Subsidy-Payment for Import of Urea	1,709	885	2,594
 Human Resources for Health and Medical Education-Establishment of New Medical Colleges and Increase of Seats in existing Government Medical Colleges (PMSSN)	1,541	802	2,344
 PMAY-Urban (Schemes financed from Central Road and Infrastructure Fund)-Other items of States/UTs Component	2,363	755	3,118
 Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS)	1,283	742	2,025
 Employees Pension Scheme, 1995	1,409	730	2,138
 Flexible Pool for RCH & Health System Strengthening , National Health Programme and National Urban Health Mission-Support from PMSSN	1,500	727	2,227
 Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY)-Support from (PMSSN)	1,239	726	1,965
 SBM-Rural-Programme Component	1,355	616	1,971
 Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme and National/Special Projects	0	600	600
 Reform Linked Distribution Scheme	1,246	584	1,830
 Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana	1,062	550	1,613
 Infrastructure Maintenance-Gross Budgetary Support (GBS)	1,000	500	1,500
 Flexible Pool for RCH & Health System Strengthening , National Health Programme and National Urban Health Mission-Support from National Investment Funds (NIF)	1,000	500	1,500

Continued ...

Name of the Schemes		Total	SC	ST
✓	Pradhan Mantri Jan Jatiya Vikas Mission (PMJVM)	0	499	499
✗	Schemes of UT-Transport	0	445	445
✗	Other Establishment	0	425	425
✗	Nutrient Based Subsidy-Payment for Imported P and K Fertilizers	1,394	422	1,817
✗	University Grants Commission (UGC)	815	420	1,235
✓	Pre- Matric Scholarship for SC & STs	500	419	919
!	Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PMABHIM)	748	331	1,079
✗	PLI for Large Scale Electronics and IT Hardware	389	324	713
!	Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS)-Support for Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS)	612	307	919
✗	Compensation to Service Providers for creation and augmentation of telecom infrastructure-Bharatnet	0	301	301
✗	Grants to Central Universities (CUs)	594	301	895
✗	Urea Subsidy Payment for Indigenous Urea	3,868	2,004	5,871
✓	Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM AJAY)	1,950	0	1,950
✗	Infrastructure MaintenanceSupport from PMSSN	640	0	640
✓	Strengthening of Machinery for Enforcement of Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1995 and Prevention of Atrocities Act, 1989	600	0	600
✗	Assistance to State Agencies for intra-state movement of foodgrains and FPS dealers margin under NFSA	496	257	752
Total fund under 50 top schemes under SC & ST schemes		129,417	79,333	208,750

SCs, National Overseas Scholarships for SCs, Top class education for SC students and free coaching for SC and OBC students.

Focusing on higher education spending for the STs, two Ministries contribute to this. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has allocated Rs. 1986 Cr. The Ministry of Higher Education has allocated a total of Rs. 3889 Cr under AWSC and Rs. 1986 Cr under AWST for SC and ST students, respectively. Even though there is an allocation increase of 1.1% under AWSC and AWST by the Ministry of Higher Education, none of the schemes featured in the AWSC and AWST are targeted for education of SC and ST students. For example, the scheme Grants to Central Universities (CUs) has been allocated Rs. 594 Cr under AWSC and Rs. 301 Cr under AWST; University Grants Commission (UGC) allocating Rs. 815 Cr. under AWSC and Rs. 420 Cr under AWST so on and so forth. However, none of these schemes have targeted the objective of the development of SC and ST students..

Even though there is a slight increase in the Budget for the SC/ST under the department of higher education, many of these schemes are not targeted towards the development of SC and ST students. For example, schemes for SC & ST like Grants to Central Universities (CUs) is Rs. 594 Cr for SC and Rs. 301 Cr for ST, Support to National Institutes of Technology (NITs) and IIST is Rs. 300 Cr for SC and Rs. 161 Cr for ST, the gross budgetary support for All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) is Rs. 63.00 Cr for SC and Rs. 25 Cr for ST, Interest subsidy and contribution for

Guarantee funds is Rs. 200 Cr for SC and Rs. 100 Cr for ST, Gross budgetary support for World Class Institution is Rs. 310 Cr for SC and Rs. 151 Cr for ST, Rashtriya Uchhatar Shiksha Abhiyan is Rs. 415 Cr for SC and Rs. 230 Cr for ST, University Grants Commission (UGC) is Rs. 815 Cr for SC and Rs. 420 Cr for ST, Support to Indian Institute of Technology is Rs. 495 Cr for SC and Rs. 240 Cr for ST. All these schemes will make a total Rs. 3192 Cr for SC and Rs. 1628 Cr for ST and has been placed erroneously inside where they do not have any financial flows for the welfare and development of the SC and ST. Paradoxically, the scheme which would benefit the SC/ST students like Scholarship for college and university students is only Rs. 30 Cr. Surprisingly at a time when many SC/ST students are facing challenges in accessing higher education it does not make sense as to why there is no direct allocation to schemes that benefit SC and ST students.

4. Scheme Analysis

As the new guideline issued by Finance Ministry, Govt of India No-F.2(21) B(P&A)/2016 on 26th December 2017, 41 Departments should allocate funds towards SC & ST Budget, but as many as 35 Ministries/Departments have been earmarked fund under SC Budget followed by 38 Ministries/ Departments under ST Budget. The overall calculation is made from the total of CS (Central Sector Scheme) +CSS (Centrally Sponsored Schemes) under each prescribed Ministries/Departments by

the new guidelines and not from the total fund from each Ministries/Department. The total number of the schemes allocated under SC & ST Budget is found to be 329 under SC Budget amounting Rs 1,42,342 Cr and 336 under ST Budget amounting Rs 89,265 Cr. However, the total targeted funds under SC budget is Rs 53,795Cr and Rs 43,586-Cr under ST Budget in the current financial year. Out of the total 329 number of schemes only 74 schemes are found to be targeted schemes under SC Budget and out of 336 total number of schemes 77 schemes are found to be targeted schemes under ST budget.

Relevance of Schemes for SC ST

Excess allocation in Notional Schemes under SC budget in FY 2022-23

- MGNREGA-Programme Component-Rs 15,381 Cr,
- Urea Subsidy Payment for Indigenous Urea-Rs 3,868Cr,
- Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS)-Rs 3,328 Cr
- Nutrient Based Subsidy Payment for Indigenous P and K Fertilizers-Rs 3,486 Cr,
- Urea Subsidy Payment for Import of Urea Rs 1,709 Cr.
- Human Resources for Health and Medical Education Establishment of New Medical Colleges and Increase of Seats in existing Government Medical Colleges (PMSSN) is- Rs 1,541 Cr-SC budget
- Reform Linked Distribution Scheme- Rs -1,246 Cr

Excess allocation in Notional schemes under ST budget

- MGNREGA-Programme Component-Rs 11,428 Cr
- Road Works-Works under Roads Wing-Rs 4,545 Cr
- Urea Subsidy-Payment for Indigenous Urea- Rs 2,004 Cr
- Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS)- Rs 1,452 Cr
- Nutrient Based Subsidy-Payment for Indigenous P and K Fertilizers-Rs 1,084 Cr
- Urea Subsidy-Payment for Import of Urea-Rs 8,85 Cr

Under-allocation in effective schemes under SC Budget:

- National Overseas Scholarship for SCs-Rs 36 Cr,
- Scholarship for College and University students-Rs 30Cr,

- National Safai Karamcharis Finance & Development Corporation-Rs25 Cr,
- PM Research Fellowship-Rs 36 Cr
- National Means cum Merit Scholarship Scheme- Rs 66 Cr
- National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation- Rs 50 Cr
- Scholarships for Higher Education for Young Achievers Scheme (SHREYAS) for SCs-Free Coaching for SCs and OBCs-Rs 47 Cr
- Venture Capital Fund for SCs and OBCs-Rs 70 Cr

Under-allocation in effective schemes under ST Budget

- Scholarship to the ST Students for Studies Abroad Rs 4 Cr,
- Scholarship for College and University students-Rs20 Cr,
- PM Research Fellowship-Rs 17 Cr
- National Fellowship and Scholarship for Higher Education of ST Students-Rs 145 Cr
- Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Tribes-Rs 50 Cr
- National Means cum Merit Scholarship Scheme-Rs 36 Cr
- National Schedule Caste/Schedule Tribe Hub Centre-Rs 20 Cr

Excess allocation in General Scheme under SC Budget

- Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) / National Rural Drinking Water MissionJal Jeevan Mission/National Rural Drinking Water Programme-Rs 13,200 Cr
- Flexible Pool for RCH & Health System Strengthening, National Health Programme and National Urban Health Mission Gross Budgetary Support (GBS)-Rs 4,177 Cr
- Crop Insurance Scheme -Rs2,667 Cr,
- Guarantee Emergency Credit Line (GECL) facility to eligible MSME borrowers-Rs 2,520 Cr
- Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna-Rs 1,737 Cr

Excess allocation in General Scheme under ST Budget

- Flexible Pool for RCH & Health System Strengthening, National Health Programme and National Urban Health Mission Gross Budgetary Support (GBS)-Rs 2,227 Cr
- Crop Insurance Scheme-Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima

Yojana-Rs 1,381 Cr

- Guarantee Emergency Credit Line (GECL) facility to eligible MSME borrowers-Rs 1,312 Cr
- Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna- Rs 976 Cr
- Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana-Rs 550 Cr
- Compensation to Service Providers for creation and augmentation of telecom infrastructure-Bharatnet-Rs 301 Cr

Ministry/Dept wise priority to schemes for SC & ST

The revised guidelines issued by Finance Ministry, Govt of India No-F.2(21) B(P&A)/2016 on 26th December 2017²⁴ mandate the two nodal Ministries namely Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and Ministry of Tribal Affairs to monitor and coordinate with 41 obligatory Ministries/Departments to ensure proper implementation of guidelines. The Business Rule 1961 vide Gazette Notification a F. No. 1/21//26/2016-Cab dated 31st Jan'2017 also ensure that targeted schemes are included under these two schemes. The revised guideline of Ministry of Finance also mandates that a basket of targeted schemes are allocated by these two Ministries and if any non-targeted schemes are identified, then they should reallocate the schemes to ensure that the proportionate funds are planned properly to strengthen these two budgets.

It was also noted that the nodal Ministries should focus on pro-active planning than post-fact accounting based on need assessment on the ground to ensure that, development gaps between SC and ST communities and rest of people are bridged. The guidelines also mandate the two nodal Ministries to examine each and every scheme very critically to ensure that each scheme should focus on development of the communities and that it will sustain for longer period. Other than this, it also mandates the nodal Ministries to coordinate with other obligatory Ministries/Departments to conduct a yearly evaluation to assess the status of these two budgets.

The role of NITI Aayog is crucial in ensuring periodic review to track the performance of each obligatory Ministries/Departments in consultation with the two Nodal Ministries. Moreover, the role of A "National institute for each SCs & STs", which is the Think tank and Resource centre for SC budget, is really critical in ensuring all schemes are examined and

screened methodically to ensure that, the development pace is accelerated among SCs and STs to sustain the development, secure quantifiable benefits to SCs households, Enhance the incomes of members of the SCs and provide basic minimum services to SCs communities through basket of innovative targeted schemes for SCs & STs communities.

In-depth analysis reveals that almost 62% funds earmarked for different schemes are either non-targeted or general in nature. For instance, Rs 11,166 Cr has been allocated towards the schemes called "Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan)" under SC budget and Rs 5876 Cr under ST budget. This is the top funded scheme allocating 8% and 7% of the total fund under SC & ST budget, respectively, and is not exclusively for these communities.

The positive side of the role of nodal Ministries is that, outcome-based monitoring has been going on for last couple years through real time data monitoring portal "e-Uthan Portal" run by MSJE, but data on beneficiaries' details and redressal mechanism are yet to be updated.

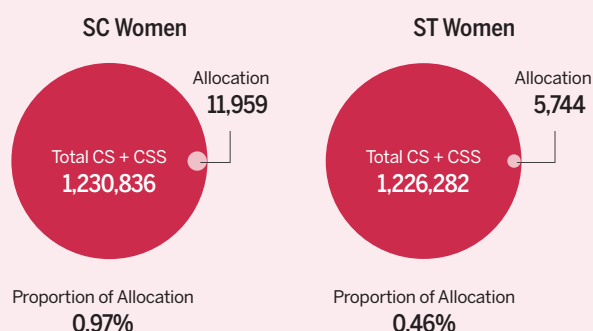
5. Gender Budget Analysis

The Union budget allocations earmarked for the schemes that benefit women called the 'Gender Responsive Budgeting (henceforth GRB)', reveals that wide gaps continue to exist between the goals and the lived realities of Dalit and Adivasi women. This year also the same trend has been followed, and in fact, it has shrunk from Rs.15116.20 Cr in 2021-22 to Rs. 11958.95Cr in 2022-23 under SC budget and from Rs.7204.70Cr to Rs.5744.20Cr under ST budget. Our analysis of Gender Budget Statement²⁴ (henceforth GBS) and Allocation for Welfare of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe (AWSC/AWST) reveals that the allocations are meagre, reflecting the lack of priority given to Dalit and Adivasi women. The Union Budget 2021-22 allocates 0.97% for Dalit women and 0.47% for Tribal women from the total eligible Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and Central Sector Schemes (CS).

Traditional and big ticket schemes like Pre Matric scholarship, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, Samagra Shiksha, Saksham Anganwadi received lesser allocations considering the need to have a gender sensitive post Covid 19 recovery. Given the huge demand for scholarships particularly for girl student, the budgets

²⁴ As one of the mechanisms of Gender Responsive Budgeting the Ministry of Finance introduced Gender Budget Statement in the Union Budget as an initiative to estimate how much government's total budget is flowing for women.

Figure 5: Allocation for SC and ST Women in Gender Budget Statement 2022-23 (Amount in Rs.Cr.)



Source: Gov of India - Budget Expenditure Profile 2022-23, Statement 13

for the Post Matric Scholarship (PMS) scheme is highly inadequate. The allocation for Post Matric Scheme for SC girls is Rs.1698Cr while Rs. 589.50Cr for ST girls. As compared to the last year there has been only a marginal increase in allocation. Moreover, considering the gendered digital divide there is a restricted access to women in accessing online education especially for the women from the Sc and ST communities thereby intensifying the already existing gap between the women from the marginalized communities and dominant communities.

Women from these communities are particularly vulnerable to discrimination and violence owing to their caste and gender identities. The latest NCRB data, 2019 reveals that atrocities against Dalit women and girls accounts for 15.11% of total crimes registered under the SCs & STs (PoA) Act from 2014-19. These atrocities have increased by 46% in the last six years for Dalit women and girls²⁵. Despite growing incidences of violence against SC and ST women there is only a marginal allocation of Rs. 180Cr for their access to justice. There is only one scheme pertaining to the same namely 'Strengthening of Machinery for Enforcement of PCR Act, 1955 and PoA Act, 1989' which focuses primarily on sensitization programmes and not on equitable redress mechanisms, this year this scheme didn't see any increase in allocation.

Mounting evidences have revealed that the Covid 19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted the women especially those from the marginalised

communities. As per the recent NSSO report, 2.8 Cr rural women have vanished from the rural market over the last six years. The pandemic has further intensified this, as women faced disproportionate job losses. The labor force shrank by 14% for women versus 1% for men between December 2019 and December 2020, as per Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy data. The budget allocation shows a gloomy picture, with no allocation under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises for SC and ST women.

Additionally, the budget also failed to make allocations for sexual minorities such as transgender and other across the LGBTQI+ spectrum. The budget has completely invisibilised them and has failed to address issues of intersectionality. Under the scheme 'Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise (SMILE)' there is allocation only for the component 'Comprehensive Rehabilitation of Persons Engaged in the Act of Begging' while under the component 'Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation for Welfare of Transgender Persons' didn't see any allocation. Such an approach towards development shows the failure of the planning process to redistribute resources towards inclusive development.

6. Access to Land

India witnessed world's largest protest in 2021 where more than 250 million people took to streets to resist what they called the "Black Laws". After a massive backlash from the people, after which, the government had to repeal the three laws after more than a year of brutal resistance. Over 90 percent of farmers own only small amounts of land or no land at all. They were unaffected by the repeal as they are kept as bonded laborer. According to a report, there are about 3,00,000 bonded laborer in India. Landless Dalits were allotted lands under the Zameen Santhani Scheme in Gujarat where surplus land was redistributed, but 64 of the 84 Dalit beneficiaries in Malvan who received land under the Zameen Santhani scheme, could not grow anything on it as the land was uncultivable. Between 2005 and 2009, administrations of 19 districts allotted almost 20,000 acres of wasteland to nearly 7000 landless families under the Santhani scheme. However, most of the land allocated under the Santhani scheme was uncultivable. By most estimates, the Dalit community

25 <http://www.ncdhr.org.in/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Dalit-Women-Rise-For-Justice-Status-Report-2021.pdf>

Figure 6a: Department Wise Due and Allocation under DAPSC Budget for 2022-23 BE in Rs Cr

Departments	CS	CSS	Total Eligible Ministries (CS +CSS)	% of Proposed Allocation	Due Allocation under SC (Rs Cr)	Allocation under SC Budget (Rs Cr)
Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare	105,710.00	17,616.00	123,326.00	16.6	20,472.12	20,472.12
Agricultural Research and Education	1,995.83	0.00	1,995.83	8.3	165.65	165.70
AYUSH	306.98	800.00	1,106.98	8.3	91.88	95.00
Fertilisers	105,222.32	0.00	105,222.32	8.3	8,733.45	9,062.50
Pharmaceuticals	2,157.50	0.00	2,157.50	8.3	179.07	35.07
Coal	314.54	0.00	314.54	8.3	26.11	26.10
Commerce	5,209.40	0.00	5,209.40	8.3	432.38	25.01
Telecommunications	11,678.00	0.00	11,678.00	8.3	969.27	41.50
Consumer Affairs	1,599.00	0.00	1,599.00	8.3	132.72	2.08
Food and Public Distribution	207,291.10	6,582.13	213,873.23	8.3	17,751.48	17,666.34
Culture	532.55	0.00	532.55	8.3	44.20	44.20
Development of North Eastern Region	2,771.92	0.00	2,771.92	8.3	230.07	230.54
School Education and Literacy	358.26	50,694.11	51,052.37	20.0	10,210.47	10,993.95
Higher Education	5,412.01	2,042.95	7,454.96	16.6	1,237.52	3,889.00
Electronics and Information Technology	10,676.18	0.00	10,676.18	8.3	886.12	886.12
Environment, Forests and Climate Change	963.07	930.19	1,893.26	8.3	157.14	158.70
Fisheries	0.00	1,891.00	1,891.00	16.6	313.91	315.21
Animal Husbandry and Dairying	2,315.00	1,394.76	3,709.76	16.6	615.82	616.62
Food Processing Industries	1,922.00	900.00	2,822.00	8.3	234.23	149.40
Health and Family Welfare	15,163.22	47,634.07	62,797.29	16.6	10,424.35	10,424.35
Housing and Urban Affairs	27,501.02	45,300.00	72,801.02	22.5	16,380.23	2,549.54
WR, RD,GD	5,220.86	12,605.12	17,825.98	8.3	1,479.56	0.00
Drinking Water and Sanitation	0.00	67,192.00	67,192.00	22.0	14,782.24	14,555.00
Labour and Employment	16,084.10	75.00	16,159.10	16.6	2,682.41	2,682.42
MSME	21,357.85	0.00	21,357.85	16.6	3,545.40	3,291.97
Mines	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.3	0.00	32.45
New and Renewable Energy	6,787.93	0.00	6,787.93	8.3	563.40	364.00
Panchayati Raj	163.20	663.00	826.20	16.6	137.15	138.80
Petroleum and Natural Gas	8,737.82	0.00	8,737.82	8.3	725.24	469.00
Power	11,205.80	0.00	11,205.80	16.6	1,860.16	1,246.25
Road Transport and Highways	198,944.48	0.00	198,944.48	8.3	16,512.39	0.00
Rural Development	212.20	135,538.73	135,750.93	25.0	33,937.73	25,437.67
Land Resources	239.25	2,000.00	2,239.25	16.6	371.72	379.02
Science and Technology	2,894.55	0.00	2,894.55	8.3	240.25	240.15
Skill Development and Entrepreneurship	0.00	2,613.24	2,613.24	16.6	433.80	393.75
Social Justice and Empowerment	969.50	10,641.01	11,610.51	72.5	8,417.62	9,508.01
Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities	740.39	0.00	740.39	16.6	122.90	117.09
Textiles	12,016.92	0.00	12,016.92	16.6	1,994.81	223.98
Tourism	2,270.34	5.27	2,275.61	8.3	188.88	0.00
Women and Child Development	0.00	24,939.35	24,939.35	20.0	4,987.87	4,988.00
Youth Affairs and Sports	1,832.50	0.00	1,832.50	16.6	304.20	304.55
Ministry of Cooperation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.00	121.20
TOTAL	798,777.59	432,057.93	1,230,835.52		182,975.91	142,342.36

As per the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Finance, Dept of Public Affairs, the due allocation for SC & ST Budget is calculated based on the total amount of (CS: Central Sector Scheme)+ (CSS: Centrally Sponsored Scheme) of each obligatory Ministries/Departments.

Figure 6b: Department Wise Due and Allocation under DAPST for 2022-23 (Rs In Cr.)

Departments	CS	CSS	Total Eligible Ministries (CS + CSS)	% of Proposed Allocation	Due Allocation under ST (Rs Cr)	Allocation under SC Budget (Rs Cr)
Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare	105,710.00	17,616.00	123,326.00	8.6	10,606.04	10,606.04
Agricultural Research and Education	1,995.83	0.00	1,995.83	4.3	85.82	85.82
AYUSH	306.98	800.00	1,106.98	4.3	47.60	72.00
Fertilisers	105,222.32	0.00	105,222.32	4.3	4,524.56	4,395.03
Pharmaceuticals	2,157.50	0.00	2,157.50	4.3	92.77	18.17
Coal	314.54	0.00	314.54	8.6	27.05	27.05
Commerce	5,209.40	0.00	5,209.40	4.3	224.00	25.51
Telecommunications	11,678.00	0.00	11,678.00	4.3	502.15	408.50
Consumer Affairs	1,599.00	0.00	1,599.00	4.3	68.76	1.08
Food and Public Distribution	207,291.10	6,582.13	213,873.23	4.3	9,196.55	9,152.54
Culture	532.55	0.00	532.55	4.3	22.90	22.90
Development of North Eastern Region	2,771.92	0.00	2,771.92	8.6	238.39	754.95
School Education and Literacy	358.26	50,694.11	51,052.37	10.7	5,462.60	6,093.66
Higher Education	5,412.01	2,042.95	7,454.96	8.6	641.13	1,986.00
Electronics and Information Technology	10,676.18	0.00	10,676.18	6.7	715.30	715.30
Environment, Forests and Climate Change	963.07	930.19	1,893.26	8.6	162.82	165.20
Fisheries	0.00	1,891.00	1,891.00	8.6	162.63	172.71
Animal Husbandry and Dairying	2,315.00	1,394.76	3,709.76	8.6	319.04	327.20
Food Processing Industries	1,922.00	900.00	2,822.00	4.3	121.35	77.40
Health and Family Welfare	15,163.22	47,634.07	62,797.29	8.6	5,400.57	5,400.57
Housing and Urban Affairs	27,501.02	45,300.00	72,801.02	4.3	3,130.44	790.66
WR, RD,GD	5,220.86	12,605.12	17,825.98	8.6	1,533.03	791.50
Drinking Water and Sanitation	0.00	67,192.00	67,192.00	10.0	6,719.20	6,615.80
Labour and Employment	16,084.10	75.00	16,159.10	8.6	1,389.68	1,389.69
MSME	21,357.85	0.00	21,357.85	8.6	1,836.78	1,678.87
Mines	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.3	0.00	20.70
New and Renewable Energy	6,787.93	0.00	6,787.93	8.6	583.76	384.00
Panchayati Raj	163.20	663.00	826.20	8.6	71.05	72.00
Petroleum and Natural Gas	8,737.82	0.00	8,737.82	4.3	375.73	241.00
Power	11,205.80	0.00	11,205.80	8.6	963.70	584.08
Road Transport and Highways	198,944.48	0.00	198,944.48	4.3	8,554.61	4,545.00
Rural Development	212.20	135,538.73	135,750.93	17.5	23,756.41	18,296.61
Land Resources	239.25	2,000.00	2,239.25	10.0	223.93	228.32
Science and Technology	2,894.55	0.00	2,894.55	4.3	124.47	124.37
Skill Development and Entrepreneurship	0.00	2,613.24	2,613.24	8.6	224.74	203.33
Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities	740.39	0.00	740.39	8.6	63.67	60.66
Textiles	12,016.92	0.00	12,016.92	8.6	1,033.46	176.73
Tourism	2,270.34	5.27	2,275.61	4.3	97.85	97.85
Tribal Affairs	2,945.53	4,111.38	7,056.91	100.0	7,056.91	8,406.92
Women and Child Development	0.00	24,939.35	24,939.35	8.6	2,144.78	2,145.00
Youth Affairs and Sports	1,832.50	0.00	1,832.50	8.6	157.60	161.15
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.00	268.62
Dadra & Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.00	17.09
Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.00	1,394.75
Ministry of Cooperation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.00	62.79
Total	800,753.62	425,528.30	1,226,281.92		98,663.82	89,265.12

As per the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Finance, Dept of Public Affairs, the due allocation for SC & ST Budget is calculated based on the total amount of (CS: Central Sector Scheme)+ (CSS: Centrally Sponsored Scheme) of each obligatory Ministries/Departments.

forms about 32 per cent of Punjab's population, but they own only around 3 percent of land. Jat Sikhs, who form about 25 percent of the population, are known to own large swathes of farmland. 81% of bonded laborer are Dalit and Adivasi women, mostly widows serving the landlords for the loan that their late husband's took.

They are barely paid any wages, in fact, the interest amount is in itself unpayable. In Punjab, 94% of farm suicides are due to 'farm debt' often accounted by indebted Dalits. The ruling Congress government in Punjab in its last budget in March 2021 announced the allocation of Rs 526 crore for waiving the loans of landless farm labourers but it was an insufficient amount for the nearly 7.5 lakh farm labourers in the state who already have at least Rs 6,000 crore of debt on them. The Union Budget 2022-23, the government allocated a total of Rs. 31,078.16 Cr out of which Rs 20,472.12 Cr is for SCs and Rs. 10,606.04 Cr is for STs to the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare. The percentage of department allocation towards SC and ST budget as compared to the previous year has increased by Rs. 226.54 Cr.

7. Access to Justice

Discrimination based on caste in India has been a hindrance for the overall growth of the country and especially to the marginalized communities like Dalits (Scheduled Caste) and Adivasis (Scheduled Tribes). Acts of violence against Dalits and Adivasis have become a daily norm in Indian society and impunity is often enjoyed by the perpetrators due to lack or denial of justice often resulting in heinous acts of crime against them. The Protection of Civil Rights Act 1955 and The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act of 1989 operate as the sole protector from discrimination and violence against Dalits and Adivasis, however, a surge in crimes against them have been a constant sight. According to the National Crime Record Bureau, in 2020, a total of 50,291 crimes were committed against Dalits which is a rise of 9.4% compared to 45,935 cases in 2019 whereas crimes against Adivasis rose to 9.3% making it a total of 8272 cases in the year 2020 compared to previous year total of 8257 registered cases.²⁶ The plight of atrocities against Dalit women and children too deteriorated compared to the previous years data. In 2019, a total

of 7,510 cases for crimes against Dalit women were registered under POA Act whereas the numbers were 6,818 in the year 2018. Moreover, the data also showed significant rise in heinous crimes such as rape where 3,372 cases were recorded whereas 3,373 cases were registered for an assault on women with intent to outrage modesty. In 2019, 16.35% was the total share of crimes against Dalit women and children under POA act significantly higher than the previous year data of 16.02%.²⁷ Although, the rate of resolution of cases registered under the act is 6.7%, meeting its target of 2% for the FY 2020-21,²⁸ amusingly, only 216 cases (0.4%) of the total crimes against SCs in 2020 resulted in convictions whereas 3,192 (6.3%) cases resulted in acquittals and the court pendency rate of cases under the SC/ST Act stood at 96.5%. In FY 2020-21, Rs. 550 crores were allocated for the scheme Strengthening of Machinery for Enforcement of Protection of Civil Rights Act 1995 and Prevention of Atrocities Act 1989²⁹. The below table shows a list of programs to be undertaken in the abovementioned scheme in the FY 2020-21.³⁰

Component	Programs under the scheme 'Strengthening of Machinery for Enforcement of Protection of Civil Rights Act 1995 and Prevention of Atrocities Act 1989'	Targets for FY 2020-21
1	No. of Awareness generation activities/ Workshop/Seminars/ Jan-jagaran /Training Programs etc conducted	4950
2.	% victims provided compensation /relief	100%
3.	% Establishment of Special court, SC/ ST Protection Cell, Constitution of State level Vigilance & Monitoring committee, Nominating Nodal officer, Special public prosecutor, Investigating officer etc	100% Compliance of provisions of the PCR Act and the POA Act.

26 https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/crimes-against-scs-sts-went-up-in-2020-up-mp-top-charts-ncrb-data-121091601048_1.html

27 <http://www.ncdhr.org.in/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Dalit-Women-Rise-For-Justice-Status-Report-2021.pdf>

28 https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2020-21/doc/OutcomeBudgetE2020_2021.pdf

29 <https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2020-21/doc/eb/sbe92.pdf>

30 https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/budget2020-21/doc/OutcomeBudgetE2020_2021.pdf

Figure 7, Closing the Gap - Suggested Schemes

	SC Schemes (Rs. Cr.)	ST Schemes (Rs. Cr.)		SC Schemes (Rs. Cr.)	ST Schemes (Rs. Cr.)
Higher Education			School Education		
Paramedical and nursing colleges for SC/ST girls	2,000	1,000	500 state of the art modern schools for SC/ST students	2,500	1,500
Top Class Residential Coaching for SC Students	1,000	500	Inclusion Cells in Schools	100	100
Boys Hostels in every district headquarters - 640	2,000	1,000	Appointment of SC/ST Teachers in Rural Areas	400	200
girls hostels in every district head-quarters - 640	1,500	1,000	Special Teacher Training Programme on Anti-Discrimination and Inclusion	100	80
Remedial coaching in english language	300	200	High class hostels for SC/ST Students at district headquarters	4,000	3,000
B.R Ambedkar Universities in 10 states - Punjab, Bengal, U.P, Bihar, Andhra, Tamil Nadu, M.P, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Telangana	40,000	20,000	Appointment of Permanent SC/ST Women Cooks	200	100
Agri Coop			Special Nutritional Supplements	300	200
Minor irrigation programme for SC/ST farmlands	600	400	Skill Development		
Sustainable Agriculture Grants for SC/ST Farmers	700	300	Training Capacity Building and Entrepreneurship Development for SC/ST Youth	150	100
Horticulture and sericulture scheme for SC/ST	300	200	Social Justice		
Agriculture Research			Implementation of SC/ST POA Act	4,000	1,500
Agricultural Training Institute for SC/ST	500	300	Finance Development Corporation for SC Woman	5,000	2,500
AHDF			Insurance scheme for Criminally assaulted SC/ST Woman	500	400
District Level SC/ST Dairy Cooperatives Scheme	300	200	Scaling up NFSC to all SC PhD Students	500	300
Livestock Development Fund for SC/ST Family	400	300	Pre-Medical Coaching and Scholarship for SC/ST Students	300	200
Small Scale Entrepreneurship Fund for Goat, Pig, Hen and Cow Breeding	200	100	Special fund for protection and empowerment of SC/ST Woman	300	200
DWS			Special Development funds for Nomadic, semi-nomadic and Vimuktajatis of SCs and STs.	2,000	1,000
Community Well Regeneration Scheme in SC/ST Localities	600	300	Establishment of Centers in Universities for study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy	5,000	2,500
Provision for Drinking Water for SC/ST families	800	400	Special Fast Track Court for Speedy Trail of SC/ST Cases	4,000	3,000
Health Family Welfare			SC & ST fellowship for non-NET research students	1,500	1,000
Modernization of Health Centres in SC/ST Areas	1,500	800	Compensation to Victims	1,500	1,000
Paramedical and nursing colleges for SC/ST girls	1,500	1,000	B.R Ambedkar Centres for learning and libraries in SC ST dominated districts	1,000	500
Financial Medical Assistance for SC/ST Families	900	500	Rehabilitation of Women Ex. Manual Scavengers	2,000	0
Superspeciality hospital for Malaria, TB, Hypertension, sickle cells, and other diseases in SC/ST Areas.	20,000	10,000	Formation of Special POCSO Courts to Trail SC/ST Cases	5,000	2,500
Health Contingency fund at Municipal level for SC/ST community	1,000	500	Overseas Scholarship for SC/ST Woman	15,000	10,000
Housing			National Single Window Helpline for SC/ST Students	500	300
Ambedkar Model Housing Scheme	2,000	1,000	Fellowships for SC- ST students under exchange programmes to foreign universities	1,500	954
Birsa Munda Model Housing Scheme	0	1,500	Establishment of SC - ST Research institutes	2,500	800
Housing Scheme in Disaster prone for SC/ST Families	2,000	700	Tribal Affairs		
Housing Loan on Subsidised Interest rate to SC/ST Man/Women	1,500	1,000	Innovation fund for Tribal Cooperatives and Tribal Entrepreneurship	3,000	1,000
Savitri Bai Phule SC/ST Woman Housing Programme	1,500	1,000	Special fund for FRA Implementation	700	400
Labour & Employment			Special fund for implementation of PESA in Schedule Areas	0	300
Rehabilitation and Protection of SC Child Labour	500	300	Special Mission for Development of Minor Forest Produce	0	300
Top class coaching for competitive exams	300	200	Model Schools for SC/ST Girls	5,000	1,500
Establishment of Employment Centre for SC/ST Labour	1,500	1,000	Schools of international Standard at State Level for SC/ST Students	10,000	5,000
MSME			Special Development Fund for most Vulnerable Tribal Groups	100	1,000
Standup Fund for Unemployed SC	5,000	2,500	Women Child		
SC/ST Innovation fund for employment generation activities	2,000	1,000	Establishment of Mini health centres in SC/ST Habitants	2,500	1,000
Cedit Support Program for SC/ST educated unemployed youth for Self Employment	1,000	500	Financial Medical Assistance for SC/ST Women	936	500
Special SC/ST Women Employment Fund	1,000	500	Special Child Protection Mission for SC/ST Children	500	200
Market Development Programme for SC/ST Farmers Product	400	200	Targeted Health Coverage for Migrants SC/ST Children	500	200
Rural Development			Appointment of SC/ST Caretakers	90	30
Unemployment Allowance for SC/ST BPL Individual/Families	300	300	Rehabilitation of Trafficked SC/ST Women	200	200
Restoration of Alienated land for STs	0	300			

Continued ...

Figure 7: Suggested Schemes for SC ST Budgets

	SC Schemes (Rs. Cr.)	ST Schemes (Rs. Cr.)
WR, RD, GR		
Canal Construction Programme for SC/ST farmland	800	400
Water Catchment Area Development Programme for SC/ST	300	150
Youth Sports		
Special Sports program for SC/ST youths under Khelo India	1,100	700
Overseas Training for SC/ST Sports Persons	400	200
Grand Total	182,976	98,664

NOTE 1: 1. In the Union Budget FY2022-23 with reference to Fig -1 Total Targeted Schemes for SCs is Rs 53,794.92 Cr. and STs Rs.43,586.44 Cr. with the total gap of SC allocation is Rs. 1,29,181 Cr. and Rs.55,077 Cr. for STs. The above table details of suggested schemes are for closing the Gap in the allocation.

Decodifying the components mentioned in the table above, the under allocation of funds can be easily highlighted. As per Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Rules, 1995, an average of Rs. 73,125 (to be read as Component 2) is expected for a victim for relief and compensation under at least 16 offences. However, when the actual average expenditure of 50,291 cases was calculated, each registered case had a spending of Rs. 1,09,363. This way, there was barely any amount left to incur expenses for Component 1 and Component 3. A total of 69 Exclusive Special Courts were supported in 5 States from the year 2018 to 2021. Out of 28 States and 8 Union Territories 31 of the States and UTs combined do not have any Special Police Station for redressal of grievances related to SCs and STs. Hence, the gaps in allocation needs to be bridged by allocating sufficient amount under the scheme.

The seeming rise of crimes registered under POA Act with a 9.4 % surge in the year 2020 indicates the need to expand the budget allocation of the scheme to at least Rs. 1200 crores. However, in FY 2021-22, Rs 600 crores were allocated for the scheme in which 593 crores were spent. The recent launch of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment's National Helpline Against Atrocities (a toll free number to ensure the proper implementation of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes POA Act, 1989, and to report any violations) is an addition to the programs list supported, however, the current allocation of Rs. 600 crores in FY 2022-23 is sheer injustice to the Dalits and Adivasis leaving no scope of fair implementation of the programs.

Schemes for Persons with Disabilities (PwD)

PwDs remain one of the most neglected sections of the society, more so in caste-oppressed communities which are already struggling for survival, well-being and social security. The total PwD population in India is 21,906,769 (2.21%), out of which SC PwD are 49,27,433 (22.5%) and ST PwD are 21,40,763 (9.8%). While some attention has been given to the question of women within the disability category, caste remains an untouched terrain, particularly in debates on reservation for PwDs. If we look at caste-segregated analysis on the status of PwDs, it shows that 89.1 % and 89.8% of SC and ST with disabilities, respectively, do not receive assistive aid-help because of the issue of affordability by personal means or lack of awareness about these options. This has further gone worse during the COVID-19 pandemic with little to no availability of essential services and resources to marginalized communities.

In the Union Budget 2022-23, the allocation towards Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) is Rs. 117.09 Cr for SCs and Rs. 60.66 Cr for STs as compared to Rs. 117.82 Cr and Rs. 61.04 Cr, respectively, in the FY 2021-22. We see no significant change in allocation this year despite the need for more useful state-support during the pandemic. However, when compared with the total DEPwD budget, the due share of proportionate allocation towards SC PwDs (i.e., 22.5%) is Rs 166.58 Cr and the same towards ST PwDs (i.e., 9.8%) is Rs 72.55 Cr. Therefore, there is a department-wise under-allocation of Rs. 49.49 Cr (AWSC) and Rs 11.89 Cr (AWST) as per the SCP/TSP guidelines. The highest funded schemes under the DEPwD are: Scheme for Implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act (SIPDA), Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances, and Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme. These are only general-flow schemes as they don't have any caste-based reservation policy. However, Rs. 12.84 Cr for Scholarship for SwDs, Rs. 54.46 Cr for Scheme for Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances, and Rs. 60.59 Cr for SIPDA have been allocated from SC and ST budgets cumulatively. Due to the lack of caste-

31 <https://socialjustice.nic.in/writereaddata/UploadFile/POA%20Act.pdf>

32 https://socialjustice.nic.in/writereaddata/UploadFile/ANNUAL_REPORT_2021_ENG.pdf

33 Disabled Persons in India: A Statistical Profile 2016. Social Statistics Division, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Gol.

34 Pal, Gobinda C. 2010. "Dalits with Disabilities: The Neglected Dimension of Social Exclusion". Indian Institute of Dalit Studies.

35 Ibid.

based reservation in schemes for PwDs, we have no criteria to ascertain how much of Rs. 177.75 Cr allocated towards the DEPwDs from SC and ST budget actually reaches Dalits and Adivasis with disabilities.

Dalit, Adivasi with disabilities are either 'non-working', or engaged in 'work with little earning' and 'uninvited work' like begging. With the rules being imposed during the ongoing pandemic, even uninvited work and risks involving work like begging, sex work, etc., has seen restrictions. Therefore, in order to act against this kind of extreme exclusion of people with disabilities from the entire development economy, we need to have a disability-informed approach in framing policies for SC, ST with disabilities as well as caste-segregation within the PwD category.

Disaster Management & Climate Budgets Overlook and Exclude the SC/STs

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) 6th Assessment report (2021) has raised projections for warmer climate and more water excess and stress related events in South Asia. The projections warn of rampant, intense and frequent in the form of forest fires, heatwaves, water stress and flooding, shifts in weather conditions for making agriculture unviable impacting food security. India has already been experiencing the manifestation of extreme weather events at a growing scale. It witnessed 3 severe cyclonic storms—Cyclone Gulab, Cyclone Tauktae; and Cyclone Yaas, with serious floods in Maharashtra and in 2021 alone, compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is noteworthy that the MoEFCC has displayed a lack of enthusiasm in matching the allocation with the new commitments made by the PM at COP26. The total budget for 2022-23 stands at Rs. 3030 Cr a mere 16.83 per cent increase from 2021-22 (RE). The overall allocations made to the Climate Change Action Plan has remained unchanged to Rs. 30 Cr in 2022-23 and 2021-22 (RE). The National Adaptation Fund too has remained static at Rs. 60 Cr.

MoEFCC and Budget 2022-23

The MoEFCC has allocated for the 'Welfare of Scheduled Castes' and 'Welfare of Scheduled Tribes, to the tune of Rs. 158.70Cr (Statement 10A) and Rs. 165.20Cr (Statement 10B) in 2022-23 respectively. Additionally, the allocations for STs amounts to 5 per cent of the

population ratio, denying approximately Rs. 90 Cr to the Tribals. The Ministry has stuck to the 5 per cent threshold for SCs and denied them Rs. 333.30Cr, thereby, violating the Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan Guidelines. With the abysmal allocations and those denied, both communities have again lost their share in resilience budget.

The schemes to be implemented by MoEFCC include (1) National Mission for a Green India, encompassing national afforestation programme and Forest Fire Prevention and Management; (2) Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (for Tigers and Elephants); (3) Conservation of Natural Resources and Ecosystems; (4) Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems; (5) Biodiversity Conservation; and (6) National Adaptation Fund.

These schemes, though legitimate, appear to very general in nature, and doesn't reflect how they will build the adaptive capacity of the SC/ST and other marginalised communities, who are disparately affected by climate change. Not to mention, 80 per cent rural SC and ST households' main breadwinners takes home less Rs 5000 a month (SECC 2022), and lack the capacity to recover without assistance. Hence, the allocations remain extremely low. With the STs and other forest dwelling communities including the SCs possessing marginal to no landholding in forest or non-forested areas, the dwindling of the cover and quality of forests that these communities have been traditionally dependent on, the schemes appear deceptive and misleading.

A positive development in the Union Budget is the implementation of 'Grants-in-Aid for State Disaster Mitigation Fund' of Rs 4436.8Cr and 'Assistance to States from National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF)' of Rs. 2478.15Cr from 2021-22, in response to the 15th Finance Commission Recommendations. The Finance Ministry has allocated Rs. 4658.8 (BE) and Rs. 2602Cr. (BE) respectively in 2022-23 budget for these schemes.

Ministry of Home Affairs' Budget 2022-23

MHA is the nodal agency for disaster management in the country. It makes no allocation to the welfare of SC and STs respectively, despite bearing the disproportionate impact of disasters. Furthermore, despite a surge of cyclones in the country, the allocations for the two major schemes implemented by the MHA - the 'National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project' and 'Other Disaster

Management Schemes' - are inadequate. The total budget for both schemes together amount to Rs. 406.74 Cr only, further reduced from Rs. 423.81 Cr (RE) in 2021-23. MHA's overall budget for disaster management in 2022-23 is almost the same as the BE for 2021-22, Rs 7261 Cr, which was revised to Rs. 4558.61Cr in 2021-22. The allocations for 'Assistance to States from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF)', has seen only 5 per cent increase from the last FY, at Rs. 6610Cr (BE) in 2022-23. Overall, the Ministry has allocated Rs. 5519.93Cr in (BE) 2022-23 for 'Relief on account of Natural Calamities', which got slashed to Rs. 4408.03 in last FY.

Notably, the NCRB 2019 data for 'Accidental Deaths due to Forces of Nature and Other Causes 2015-2019 recorded an increase of 18.2% (from 6,891 deaths to 8,145 deaths) in deaths due to forces of nature alone. These include —35.3% deaths due to 'Lightning' (2,876 deaths), 15.6% deaths due to 'Heat/Sun Stroke' (1,274 deaths), 11.6% deaths due to 'Flood (948 deaths) and 9.8% deaths due to 'Exposure to Cold' (796 deaths) during the year 2019. 'Landslide' and 'Cyclone' caused 3.2% (264 deaths) and 0.4% (33 deaths) of total deaths due to forces of nature respectively³⁶. The government does not gather or provide SC/ST, gender, age and disability disaggregated data on the lives impacted (survived and lost) by disasters, which is a prerequisite for designing relevant mitigation programmes, based on risk, vulnerability, capacity and exposure to risk. This makes assessing the effectiveness and outcomes of the budgetary allocations vis-à-vis disaster resilience and climate change adaptation infeasible, and susceptible to under-allocation, deviations, and denial of funds.

The social inclusion assessments of damages and losses conducted by NCDHR's National Dalit Watch after Tauktae and Yaas cyclones revealed serious effects on SC/ST/OBC communities in terms of loss of lives, agricultural, housing and livestock losses, and massive disqualification from rebuilding assistance and ex-gratia owing to lack of ownership of land they inhabit and cultivate, and lack of documents to prove other losses.³⁷ And so, whilst mortality has decreased owing to technological advances, economic damages and disruption of livelihood stands unabated³⁸, and much worse, uncompensated for particularly the SC/ST and other poorest communities. The factors and pattern for high vulnerability and default ineligibility from assistance predates to Indian Ocean Tsunami,

and unlikely to change without a socio-economic vulnerability and marginalisation framework for drawing and implementing targeted, responsive mitigation and resilience schemes out of population proportionate allocations.

Child Rights

Children who form 40 percent of the total population of the country, have been significant stakeholders in the budget especially those from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe communities³⁹. Targeted schemes for SC/ST children like National Means Cum Merit Scholarship Scheme is Rs. 66 Cr for SC and Rs. 36 Cr for ST, Mid-Day Meal Scheme for SC is Rs. 20.60 Cr and no allocation is provided for the ST children, For the National Child Labour Project including grants aid to voluntary agencies and reimbursement of assistance to bonded labour for SC is merely Rs. 4.98 Cr and for ST is Rs. 2.58 Cr, Post Matric Scholarships for SCs is Rs. 2716.80 Cr for SC and Rs. 844.95 Cr for ST, Pre-Matric Scholarship for SCs and others is Rs. 500 Cr for SC and no allocation for ST, Pre-Matric scholarship is Rs. 419 Cr for ST and no allocation has been made for SC. Critical schemes like Boys and Girls Hostel, National Scheme for Incentive to Girl Child for Secondary Education, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao have no allocation under AWSC and AWST. Major allocation has been made under Samagra Shiksha i.e., Rs. 7534.96 Cr under AWSC and Rs. 4130.55 Cr under AWST. The total expenditure on children by the government of India for FY 2022-23 is Rs. 92736.50 Cr and for the SC its Rs. 19338.35 Cr (1.57% as against CS+CSS of SC) and for the ST its 9097.08 Cr (0.74% as against CS+CSS of ST). Again, 13.6% of allocation for SC children as against SC budget and 10.2% of allocation for SC children as against ST allocation. The central government has merged the general schemes like aganwadi services with Poshan Abhiyan- National Nutrition Mission which is now called as 'Saksham Aganwadi and Poshan 2.0' (includes Umbrella ICDS like Aganwadi services, Poshan Abhiyan, Scheme for Adolescent Girls) allocation for which has been made for SC Rs. 4988 Cr under AWSC, and for ST Rs. 1988.52 Cr under AWST. These schemes are general in nature and are not exclusively for SC and ST. The union government spending on the child budget is grossly inadequate, it is important to protect and increase the expenditure to promote child rights. The Department of School

36 <https://ncrb.gov.in/sites/default/files/ADSI-2019-FULL-REPORT.pdf> p.9

37 Cyclone Tauktae, Gujarat: Inclusion Assessment for Facilitating Access to State Relief Entitlements

38 India at No. 3 in disaster ranking; worldwide losses at \$3 trillion, Pradeep Thakur | TNN | Updated: Oct 13, 2020, 19:46 IST

Education and Literacy has allocated Rs.10993.95 Cr under AWSC and Rs. 6093.66 Cr under AWST. This amount has increased from the previous year by 17%

for AWSC and 15% for AWST. Pre-Matric Scholarship scheme has been allocated Rs. 500 Cr under AWSC and Rs. 419 Cr for STs under MoTA

Recommendations



1. Allocation

All obligatory ministries should allocate population proportionate funds for Dalits and Adivasis

2. Post Matric Scholarship

Allocation to direct benefit schemes like Post-Matric Scholarships, hostels, skill development schemes should be increased and timely transfer of funds should be ensured to beneficiaries at all cost.

3. SC & ST Women Allocation

Allocation of 50% for Dalit women and a special component plan for Dalit women should be established with strong mechanisms to monitor and ensure effective implementation.

4. Social Protection

A minimum social protection floor which guarantees access to universal basic health care including maternity benefit and basic income security to all Dalits and Adivasis.

5. PWD Allocation

All schools and hostels must be made disabled-friendly keeping in mind the needs of people with disabilities

6. Legal Provision

Lack of legislative framework for implementation of SC & ST schemes has led to lack of implementation of most schemes. There is therefore an urgent need for passing of SCP/TSP legislation.

7. Access to Education

Education being the single most important scheme for the youth of the community must have enhanced funding adequate to accommodate all eligible students under Post Matric Scholarship, Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship and other similar scholarship schemes .

8. Allocation for DRR and CCA

- a. Make allocations by the MHA to the welfare of SC and ST mandatory and MoEFCC allocations and programmes under SC and ST Welfare Fund responsive to the vulnerability and needs of the communities

- b. Accelerate the recommendations of the 15th FC Report in particular the methodology for determining allocations, vis. a combination of capacity (as reflected through past expenditure), risk exposure (area and population with caste, age, disability and gender disaggregated data) and hazard and vulnerability (disaster risk index) for determining State-wise allocation for disaster management.
- c. Revisit, redesign and strengthen the budgetary allocations and their direct benefits, under the 'Welfare of Scheduled Castes (Statement 10A)' and 'Welfare of Scheduled Tribes (Statement 10B)' respectively by the MoEFCC, in consultation with NGOs and humanitarian organisations working directly with these communities on resilience and adaptation.
- d. Allocate population proportionate funds and a basket of schemes for direct Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) programmes for SC and ST communities to build their resilience and adaptive capacity. These Schemes can include livelihood to strengthen coping mechanisms during droughts, especially of the landless agricultural labourers, and women farmers and farm workers.

9. Scheme Design

All schemes that have direct benefit transfers should be encouraged both for quickness of pace of transfer and to reduce transmission losses.

10. Scheme Eligibility

All Schemes to be placed under AWSC and AWST must have a clear direction on eligibility for SCs and STs only

11. Access to Justice

Allocation should be increased to prevent crime against Dalit women, men, children, people with disabilities and queer and trans persons. There is need for establishing clear mechanisms to provide protection and security to any victims of caste-based discrimination and violence. The current allocation is grossly inadequate. Special Courts should be set up for speedy trials of cases, and increased compensation should be given to victims of caste and ethnicity based atrocities.

The National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights

is a forum launched in 1998, committed to the elimination of discrimination based on caste. A democratic secular platform led by Dalit women and men activists, with support and solidarity from movements and organizations, academics, individuals, people's organizations and institutions throughout the country who are committed to work to protect and promote human rights of Dalits. **Dalit Arthik Adhikar Andolan (DAAA)** is a part of NCDHR and looks at the various economic rights of Dalits including education and entrepreneurship. It uses the Union and state Government budgets as the main vehicle to tracking schemes and entitlements of Dalits. It involves in advocacy with policy makers and executives in strengthening the existing policies and tracking it for accountability and transparency.

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